

February 10, 1975

PRESIDENT: The Admiral speaks. Senator Barnett and the Chair would like a little more order in this chamber please.

SENATOR BARNETT: That was alright. We probably stand a better chance if they go ahead and talk.

PRESIDENT: Maybe it's the quality of the debate Senator.

SENATOR BARNETT: I'm affraid that might be it, or the speaker. I tell you the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities was first brought forth into this state by a National Endowment for Humanities Committee. They invited six people to come to Washington, D.C., to set up the Nebraska state committee for this purpose. This pamphlet that you probably received, or you should have received and I'm sure you did the last weekend, tells at the bottom of it who the humanists are the membership in the state of Nebraska. That was one of the questions that was asked. They wanted to know who the Nebraska committee for the humanities was. I can't name all the people on here. There's a Mr. Kieth Blackledge the chairman from North Platte and there's people from all over the state of Nebraska that are concerned with things that have to do with individuals. There was also a question raised as to who would pay for it. It's paid for in a Federal grant when these people, the Committee for Humanities make application for different subjects that are interesting to the people in the state to try to get them around to the people from one end of the state to the other. This grant, and they've given us two, is for a total of about \$3,000 for each session. It's from the Federal government, these grants that allow the people to watch the Legislature in action as the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities thought was so important. There was another question brought up in the Exec. Board meeting that they had somebody from the Committee of Humanities setting there asking questions and bothering some of the panel or bothering the committee or not asking the questions they'd want. They've told us, they told me that there was no way that they wanted to interrupt with the process of a committee hearing. Before the committee hearing was on they probably would have somebody like Bob Siddage who teaches Poly. Sci. at the University of Nebraska get up and give his idea as to what penal reform might do according to this bill. They were going to have Senator Luedtke, they could have had Senator Kelly, Senator Rasmussen, it wouldn't have made any difference. They didn't want to dictate to us how this committee hearing was run. I'd like to finish this explanation of what this is by saying to you that if you have something to hide from the people in the state of Nebraska, vote against this public hearing, because it will definitely show you that's what you're doing. There is no reason that the public cannot be exposed to public hearings. I read a comment that one senator said we're overexposed and I think his intention was alright. But I think he's wrong, I think we're under-exposed. All they see is the arguments on this floor. They don't have any idea how we work in committees, except the people that have been here to testify. I think it's time that we showed the people in the state of